

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration and allowance are requested.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's acknowledgment of the foreign priority claims and consideration of the IDS filed with the application. Similar consideration is requested for the IDS filed on January 16, 2007 which identifies potentially related applications.

The abstract has been amended as requested and the existing headings are believed appropriate and sufficient.

Most of the claims stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 (e) for anticipation based on Christie. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended based on the features of now-canceled claim 2, and claim 11 has been amended based on the features of now-canceled claim 12. The Examiner attempt to map the claimed exception trap mask register to the register referred to in column 10, line 45 of Christie. This mapping is not appropriate. Christie's register referred to in column 10, line 45 stores "an indication of the redirected interrupt type" corresponding to an interrupt that has occurred and which is to be redirected. But Christie's register does not store any parameter specifying whether or not that interrupt is to be redirected.

In contrast, both independent claims recite an exception trap mask register storing at least one of the parameters that controls whether an exception should be handled by the secure mode exception handler executing in a secure mode or by an exception handler executing in a mode within a current one of the secure domain and the non-secure domain when that exception occurs. The claimed exception trap mask register allows the nature of the exception response, with respect to potential redirection, to be programmed.

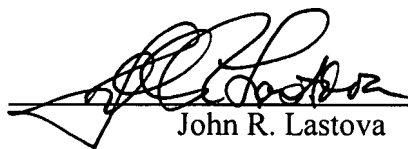
This programmable redirection feature of the exception trap mask register provides a greater degree of flexibility in the way in which the system can be configured and allows redirection to be forced only for those types of interrupt where it is deemed necessary. As a result, some interrupts which might be externally influenced and which could present a security vulnerability can be forced to be handled by a secure mode exception handler. Other types of interrupts, (e.g., interrupts which are generated internally and which could not be externally manipulated to generate security vulnerabilities), may be handled in their current domain. Avoiding unnecessary switches of domains increases the speed with which interrupts can be handled—a significant advantage in real time systems where interrupt latency is often performance critical parameter.

Lacking all the features of the independent claims, the anticipation rejection based on Christie should be withdrawn. The application is in condition for allowance. An early notice to that effect is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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